

34b B4
37. (Amended) A computer program product comprising:
a database configured to store a set of bundle codes, each bundle code indicating a set of
products offered by a provider;
a computer usable medium configured to receive a request identifying a customer and
including a bundle code [indicating one of a plurality of providers for selected products];
a computer usable medium configured to convert a portion of the received request into a
set of provisioning requests based on the received bundle code; and
a computer usable medium configured to provide the provisioning requests to the
providers.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 13-14, 28-31, 43-44, and 47; rejected claims 1, 17, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Payne et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,909,492; rejected claims 1-6, 17-21, and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Shavit et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,799,156; and rejected claims 7-12, 2-27, and 37-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Shavit et al.*

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 7, 22, and 37, and have canceled claims 1-6, 17-21, 32-36.

With respect to claim 1 the Examiner alleged that *Shavit et al.* discloses "a method for processing requests for products." The Examiner also alleged that *Shavit et al.* "does not explicitly disclose a bundle code." However, the Examiner asserts that *Shavit et al.* does disclose "use of a code name for selected services." The Examiner, therefore, contends that the "plurality of service

providers, therefore, is available through the code name for the selected service and thus meets the limitation of the Applicant's claim recitation directed to a bundle code."

Shavit et al. is directed to a method for processing business transactions between buyers and sellers (Abstract). Once a user selects a desired service (e.g., payment, ordering, see col. 8, lines 24-55), the user selects a party with whom to interact with (col. 10, lines 16-19). If the user is authorized to communicate with that party, *Shavit et al.* connects the user to the party (col. 10, lines 30-32). In addition, *Shavit et al.* discloses a short cut function to expedite the selection of a service and a party (col. 10, lines 61-64). To use the short cut function, the user may input "a code name for a selected service ... or, the user may further include the selected service provider" (col. 10, lines 63-65).

In contrast, the claimed invention relates to a method for processing requests for products, and amended claim 7, for example, recites a combination of steps as follows:

A method for processing requests for products comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

storing in a database a set of bundle codes, each bundle code indicating a set of products offered by a provider;

receiving a request identifying a customer and including a bundle code;

converting a portion of the received request into a set of provisioning requests based on the received bundle code; and

providing the provisioning requests to the providers.

Unlike the present invention, *Shavit et al.* does not disclose or suggest storing in a database a set of bundle codes indicating a set of products offered by a provider. Rather *Shavit et al.* merely provides short cut functions that enables a user to select a service from a service provider. Each short cut function merely provides an expedited way for a user to locate a service and/or service provider, thus "the more experienced user [can] jump from any point within the routing tree to any other selected point" (col. 10, lines 55-57). Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of storing bundle codes indicating a set of products.

Moreover, unlike the present invention, *Shavit et al.* fails to disclose or suggest converting a portion of the received request into a set of provisioning requests based on the received bundle code, as recited in amended claim 7. The short cut functions of *Shavit et al.* are merely for displaying an appropriate menu. By using the short cut functions, the user does not have to navigate through the menus until a desired service is located for a particular service provider. There is no teaching or suggestion of converting requests into provisioning requests based on the bundle codes. For at least the above stated reasons, *Shavit et al.* fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

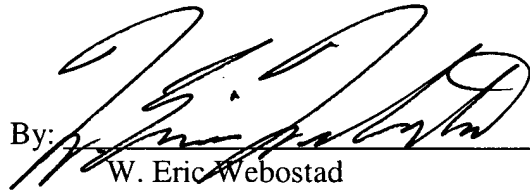
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 22 and 37 have similar recitations to claim 7, so these claims are patentable over the applied references for the reasons given above. Moreover, claims 8-12, 23-28, and 38-42 depend from claims 7, 22, and 37, and are patentable for at least the reasons expressed above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent that any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 07-2339.

Respectfully submitted,

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